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Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 29 September 2017

36/29. Promoting international cooperation to support national human rights follow-up systems, processes and related mechanisms, and their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 48/141 of 20 December 1993, 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and 65/281 of 17 June 2011 and Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007, 16/21 of 25 March 2011 and 30/25 of 2 October 2015,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, in which the Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing that the 2030 Agenda and its Goals and targets are integrated and indivisible, balance the three dimensions of sustainable development and seek to realize all human rights of all,

Reaffirming its commitment to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna on 25 June 1993,

Emphasizing the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status,

Recalling that one of the purposes of the United Nations enshrined in the Charter is to achieve international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights,

Recognizing that the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights is essential for the full achievement of the purposes of the United Nations, including the effective promotion and protection of all human rights,

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Considering that international cooperation, in conformity with the purposes and principles set out in the Charter and international law, provide an effective and practical contribution to preventing violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Affirming that technical cooperation, provided in consultation with, and with the consent of, the States concerned, should be an inclusive exercise that engages and involves all national stakeholders, including government agencies, national human rights institutions and civil society, at all stages,

Recognizing the important, valuable and mutually reinforcing role and contribution of all human rights mechanisms of international and regional human rights systems in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reiterating the importance and added value of technical assistance and capacity-building provided in consultation with, and with the consent of, the States concerned to ensure follow-up to and the effective implementation of their respective international human rights obligations and commitments,

Recognizing that the promotion and protection of human rights should be based on the principles of cooperation and genuine dialogue in all relevant forums, including in the context of the universal periodic review, and be aimed at strengthening the capacity of States to implement their respective human rights obligations and commitments,

Recognizing also the important and constructive role played by parliaments, national human rights institutions, civil society and other relevant stakeholders in the universal periodic review mechanism, and encouraging their continued and unhindered participation in and contribution to national human rights follow-up systems and processes,

Recognizing further that States, with the support from the United Nations system, have increasingly adopted comprehensive and permanent approaches to reporting to the international human rights system and to implementing recommendations through, for instance, the establishment or strengthening of national human rights follow-up systems and processes, including, as appropriate, national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up,

Underlining that such mechanisms can facilitate the task of clustering and prioritizing recommendations and of mainstreaming them into national human rights action plans, policies and working programmes, as appropriate, thus contributing to preventing the recurrence of human rights violations,

Affirming that this holistic approach to all human rights recommendations can contribute to a better alignment of human rights and sustainable development efforts at the national level,

Acknowledging the important work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in continuously updating the Universal Human Rights Index, clustering human rights recommendations and developing methodologies to identify, where applicable, synergies among human rights recommendations and the Sustainable Development Goals,

Noting that the 2030 Agenda is guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter, including full respect for international law, that it is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights treaties, the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, that it is informed by other instruments, such as the Declaration on the Right to Development, and that it is to be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law,

Welcoming the technical assistance and capacity-building provided by the Office of the High Commissioner and by the United Nations Development Programme, through United Nations Resident Coordinators and United Nations country teams, in consultation

with, and with the consent of, the States concerned, particularly with a view to supporting the establishment or the strengthening of national human rights follow-up systems and processes, including, as appropriate, national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 6/17 of 28 September 2008, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to establish a universal periodic review voluntary trust fund to facilitate the participation of developing countries, particularly least developing countries, in the universal periodic review mechanism, and to establish the voluntary fund for financial and technical assistance, to be administered jointly with the universal periodic review voluntary trust fund, in order to provide, in conjunction with multilateral funding mechanisms, a source of financial and technical assistance to help countries to implement recommendations emanating from the universal periodic review in consultation with, and with the consent of, the States concerned,

Recalling also the beginning of the third universal periodic review cycle, during which all States Members of the United Nations will undergo a review of their fulfilment of their human rights obligations and commitments,

Considering the third cycle of the universal periodic review an opportunity to strengthen the engagement of all States in the follow-up and implementation of human rights recommendations, including through the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building, provided upon request and with the consent of the States concerned,

Reaffirming the importance of strengthening the relevance and impact of human rights recommendations by providing technical assistance and capacity-building for their implementation, upon request and with the consent of the States concerned, including through the establishment or strengthening of national human rights mechanisms for reporting and follow-up, in collaboration with United Nations country teams,

1. *Welcomes* the holding of the panel discussion on promoting international cooperation to support national follow-up systems and processes, held on 9 November 2016, during the twenty-sixth session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, and the summary report thereon, submitted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-fourth session;[1]

2. *Encourages* States to establish or strengthen national human rights follow-up systems and processes, including, as appropriate, national mechanisms on reporting and follow-up, to seek, as needed, technical assistance and capacity-building, and to share experiences and good practices to that end;

3. *Encourages* States and other relevant stakeholders to promote technical assistance and capacity-building, upon the request of, and in accordance with the priorities set by, the States concerned, aimed at sharing experiences and good practices in the follow-up to international human rights recommendations;

4. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide technical assistance and capacity-building, upon the request of, and in accordance with the priorities set by, the States concerned, on the establishment or the strengthening of national human rights follow-up systems and processes, including, as appropriate, of national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up;

5. *Invites* States to gradually increase their voluntary contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the

[1] A/HRC/34/24.

Universal Periodic Review and other relevant trust funds, in order to enable States, upon request and in accordance with their priorities, to establish or strengthen their respective national human rights follow-up systems and processes, including, as appropriate, their national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up;

6. *Recognizes* that national human rights mechanisms for reporting and follow-up could make a contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by strengthening the capacity of States to assess needs, set priorities and implement measures that effectively promote and protect, including on a preventive basis, the human rights of all persons, especially those living in vulnerable situations, thus leaving no one behind;

7. *Also recognizes* the importance of strengthening capacities and building synergies at the national level for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, with due consideration given to human rights recommendations and standards;

8. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to compile, assess and raise awareness of good practices, challenges and lessons learned on the potential contribution of national human rights follow-up systems and processes, including, as appropriate, of national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up, to the implementation of human rights recommendations and, where applicable, to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, building on the activities undertaken in the field of national policies and human rights and on the enhancement of technical assistance and capacity-building programmes;

9. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

42nd meeting
29 September 2017

[Adopted without a vote.]